

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS**

The Government of the Republic of Honduras and the Government of the United States of America (hereinafter, “the Governments”);

Convinced of the urgent need to enhance the effectiveness of our bilateral cooperation through the joint development and implementation of programs to address the most pressing threats to citizen security in Honduras;

Understanding that the United States, through the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) and related citizen security and development assistance programs, is committed to complementing the Government of Honduras’ efforts to build the capacity of its law enforcement agencies, rule of law institutions, and prevention and community development programs;

Recognizing the principle of shared but different responsibilities of the Governments to addressing Honduran and Central American citizen security challenges, and the close existing security and prevention relationship between the Governments;

Seeking, within this context of intensified cooperation, to focus and structure our joint efforts toward shared, high-impact objectives, the attainment of which represents our shared goals, including preventing illicit drugs from entering Honduran territory, interdicting illicit drugs that do enter the country, ensuring the effectiveness of Honduran rule of law and other democratic institutions, protecting human rights, eliminating corruption, preventing crime and violence, and assisting communities most adversely impacted by crime and violence;

Intending to develop jointly within 45 days of the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) a separate Operational Plan to define specific actions, including the development of timelines, and the allocation of personnel and resources each Government may make available to achieve these joint objectives;

The Governments hereby identify the following five lines of action that may serve as the basis of our citizen security cooperation:

**1. Denial and Interdiction**

Maintain the integrity and sovereignty of Honduran territory by denying the illegal entry of unauthorized persons and illicit contraband into Honduras and coordinating efforts to intercept contraband that enters Honduran borders to increase the cost to criminals of utilizing Honduran territory for illicit activities.

## **2. Build Investigative and Prosecutorial Capacity**

Increase the capacity of Honduran justice sector actors to investigate, prosecute, and convict criminals. The Governments intend to sponsor the following activities: support for specialized law enforcement units; the creation of a Major Crimes Unit capable of providing national level investigative support for critical cases; strengthening the Directorate of the Fight Against Narcotrafficking; coordinating support with the Public Ministry to increase its ability to investigate and prosecute high-impact cases; developing a judicially monitored wiretapping capability; and adopting an effective conspiracy law to disrupt the activities of complex criminal organizations.

## **3. Prevention Programs and Restorative Juvenile Justice**

Support community and municipal programs aimed at preventing crime and violence by identifying local solutions to local threats and providing safe locations, education opportunities, job training and employment for at risk youth, and to reform the juvenile justice system to provide alternatives to detention for non-violent youth offenders.

## **4. Personnel Integrity, Vetting, and Internal Affairs**

Eliminate corruption and criminality within law enforcement and rule of law institutions by rewarding integrity within public justice institutions, integrating vetting mechanisms into standard personnel evaluation procedures, and strengthening the capabilities of Internal Affairs (or equivalent) staff to investigate and prosecute individuals within public security and other rule of law institutions suspected or alleged to have committed crimes, including human rights abuses, or otherwise violated the public trust.

## **5. Financial Crimes**

Create a special support unit to investigate and prosecute financial crimes, including money laundering, crimes that generate proceeds in need of laundering, and asset forfeiture cases, including efforts to seize and monetize criminal assets and other proceeds of illicit activities.

## **Commencement, Duration, Modifications, Discontinuation, and Interpretation**

Cooperation under this MOU may commence upon signature by both Governments and is intended to be of indefinite duration. The Governments intend to review cooperation under this MOU on an annual basis to ensure that joint activities continue to support the Government of Honduras' citizen security strategy.

This MOU may be modified by the written consent of the Governments.

Either Government may discontinue this MOU, but should endeavor to provide ninety (90) days advance written notice to the other Government of its intent to discontinue.

Cooperation under this MOU may only take place consistent with the applicable laws of the United States of America and the Republic of Honduras.

This MOU is not intended to create, confer, grant, or authorize any rights, privileges, or obligations under domestic or international law.

Signed at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on the 13 day of September, 2012, in the English and Spanish languages.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Maria Otero  
Undersecretary of State

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Arturo Corrales Alvarez  
Foreign Minister